

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling a network remotely, comprising:
configuring a first control unit, inside a first firewall, the first control unit separate from the first firewall and used to control the network;
configuring a proxy server outside the first firewall;
establishing a session between the first control unit and the proxy server, wherein establishing the session is executed using an access key; and
establishing a connection between the proxy server and a console, to permit remote user management of the network by communication between the first control unit and the console via the proxy server.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising configuring a second control unit inside a second firewall, the proxy server being outside the second firewall.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein configuring the first control unit includes:
receiving the proxy server identification information;
generating an access key in the first control unit; and
sending the access key and first control unit identification information to the proxy server.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein receiving the proxy server identification information includes receiving a proxy server host name, a proxy server IP address, and a proxy server port number.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein receiving the proxy server identification information includes inquiring the proxy server from the first control unit to obtain the proxy server IP address.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein configuring the proxy server includes:

- receiving the first control unit identification information;
- storing the first control unit identification information in the proxy server;
- adding the first control unit as a first remote device; and
- exchanging a validation message between the first control unit and the proxy server.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein establishing a session between the first control unit and the proxy server includes coupling through a second firewall, the proxy server being inside the second firewall.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising connecting between the proxy server and a console, the console being inside the second firewall, the connecting using an IP address facing inside the second firewall.

9. (Previously Presented) A communications system, comprising:

- a first enterprise network;
- a first control unit coupled to the first enterprise network;
- a first firewall coupled to the first control unit, the first firewall and the first control unit being separate, and the first control unit to manage the first enterprise network;
- a public network; and
- a proxy server located outside the first fire wall and implemented within a De-Militarized Zone (DMZ) between the first enterprise network and the public network, the first control unit being configured with proxy server information, the proxy server being configured with first control unit information, the first control unit being further configured to send a first access key to the proxy server, the first control unit and the proxy server configured to establish a communication session based on the first access key, the proxy server to aggregate and store performance data provided by the first control unit.

10. (Previously Presented) The communications system of claim 9, wherein receiving the proxy server information includes a proxy server host name, a proxy server IP address, and a proxy server port number.

11. (Previously Presented) The communication system of claim 9, further comprising:
a second firewall coupled to the public network;
a second control unit coupled to the second firewall; and
a second enterprise network coupled to the second control unit, the second control unit being configured with proxy server information, the proxy server being configured with second control unit information, the second control unit being further configured to send a second access key to the proxy server, the second control unit and the proxy server configured to establish a communication session based on the second access key.

12. (Currently Amended) A communications system, comprising:
a first enterprise network;
a first control unit coupled to the first enterprise network and used to control the first enterprise network;
a first firewall coupled to the first control unit, the first firewall and first control unit being separate;
a public network; and
a proxy server, to aggregate and store performance data provided by the first control unit, that includes at least one of a client request handler, a shared request object pool, or a server request handler, the proxy server being implemented within a De-Militarized Zone (DMZ) between the first enterprise network and the public network.

13. (Previously Presented) The communications system of claim 12, wherein the proxy server is configured to receive first control unit identification information, store the first control unit identification information in the proxy server, add the first control unit as a first remote device, and exchange a validation message between the first control unit and the proxy server.

14. (Previously Presented) The communications system of claim 13, further comprising:
a second firewall coupled to the public network;
a second control unit coupled to the second firewall; and
a second enterprise network coupled to the second control unit, the second control unit configured to receive proxy server identification information, generate a access key in the first control unit, and send the access key and the identification information to the proxy server.

15. (Previously Presented) The communications system of claim 14, wherein the proxy server is configured to receive second control unit identification information, store the second control unit identification information in the proxy server, add the second control unit as a second remote device, and exchange a validation message between the second control unit and the proxy server.

16. (Currently Amended) A communications system, comprising:

a first console residing within an unprotected public network and configured to generate at least one console request message, the console request message including at least one of a request for network management data, a request for Internet Protocol (IP)-Private Branch Exchange (PBX), or a request for status information;

a proxy server coupled to the first console, the proxy server configured to pool the at least one request, and to provide access from at least one console to the first control unit and to aggregate and store performance data provided by the first control unit, the proxy server being implemented within a De-Militarized Zone (DMZ) between a protected network and the unprotected public network;

a first firewall coupled to the proxy server; and

a first control unit to control the protected network, the first control unit residing within the protected network and coupled to the first firewall, the first control unit configured to receive the at least one request from the proxy server, the first control unit further configured to output at least one response corresponding to the at least one request to the proxy server, the proxy server configured to output the at least one response to the first console.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, further comprising a second console coupled to the proxy server, the second console configured to generate at least one other request, the proxy server configured to pool the at least one other request.
18. (Original) The system of claim 16, further comprising:
- a second firewall coupled to the proxy server; and
 - a second control unit, the second control unit coupled to the second firewall, the second control unit configured to receive the at least one request from the proxy server, the second control unit further configured to output at least one response corresponding to the at least one request to the proxy server, the proxy server configured to output the at least one response to the first console.
19. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the proxy server includes:
- a client request handler for receiving a client request from the first console;
 - a shared request object pool coupled to the client request handler, the shared request object pool configured to store the at least one request; and
 - a server request handler coupled to the shared request object pool, the server request handler configured to read the at least one request from the shared request object pool, the server request handler configured to send the at least one request to the first control unit, the server request handler configured to receive the at least one response, the server request handler configured to output the at least one response to the first console.
20. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the proxy server includes processor-executable code, the code performing the steps of:
- receiving a client request from the first console;
 - writing the at least one request;
 - reading the at least one request;
 - sending the at least one request to the first control unit;
 - receiving the at least one response; and
 - outputting the at least one response to the first console.

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21. (Previously Presented) A method for communicating, comprising:
- at a proxy server, receiving a console request message from a console, the console request message including at least one of a request for network management data, a request for Internet Protocol (IP)-Private Branch Exchange (PBX), or a request for status information;
 - using a processor, automatically creating a request object;
 - adding the request object to a pool; and
 - notifying a control unit of the request object, the control unit being inside a firewall and used to control a network.
22. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
- establishing a data connection with the control unit;
 - receiving a request from the control unit for the request object;
 - sending the request object to the control unit;
 - receiving a response from the control unit based on the request object; and
 - sending the response to the console.